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CIA Hushes Facts On U-2 Pilot's Wife

By MILTON VIOEST

New York Post Correspondent

Washington, April 23—The Central Intelligence Agency is apparently attempting to cloak in secrecy the facts concerning the mysterious illness of Mrs. Francis Gary Powers, wife of the U-2 pilot who recently returned from Russia.

Mrs. Powers, 27, was hospitalized here Friday. The first report from Washington police said she had taken 28 capsules of nembutal, a barbiturate. Shortly afterward, Mrs. Powers' physician at Georgetown Hospital, Dr. George Schreiner, said "we have no factual data bearing out the police report."

Records Barred

The patrolman who investigated the case insisted, however, that he had taken his information from an official medical report prepared several hours after Mrs. Powers was admitted.

When police officers went later to examine the report, they were told by hospital officials that they could not see Mrs. Powers' records.

The directors of the hospital pressed, that a doctor had asked them to give access to the data on Mrs. Powers.

Found Unusual

The hospital said it was more than a little unusual not to talk to Mrs. Powers. Although Schreiner said he had no objections on medical grounds. The doctor explained that he had received word from CIA, but not directly, to discuss the information on the case.

Mrs. Powers fell ill about 3 a.m. Friday in a plush apartment and she left her husband in the hospital. Powers' husband was to send an ambulance.

Herbert, a member of the ambulance crew, said he

found Mrs. Powers lying unconscious in her pajamas on the living room floor. Powers was with her.

Sweeney said he saw no sign of sleeping pills and that Powers made no mention of them. The pilot arrived at the hospital in a police car a few minutes after his wife, Sweeney said.

Won't Say Why

Alexandria Police Chief Russell Hawes said he had closed the records of the incident to public scrutiny at the request of Lt. Col. Paul F. Gaynor, a CIA security officer.

Gaynor, by telephone, acknowledged that the CIA was active in the case but he declined to say why. "Ask Powers," he said. But Powers could not be reached.

Schreiner, during the week-end, declined to give out any information about Mrs. Powers' diagnosis. He said only that she was treated for a stomach ailment and that she is recovering satisfactorily.

He said she is now ambulatory and is well enough to talk but that he had not asked her what might have caused her distress.

Spilled Oysters

Later last night, both of Powers' sisters who live in Washington summer, said their brother had just told them that his wife apparently had eaten some spoiled oysters that were in their refrigerator.

Each woman, Mrs. Janice Weaver and Mrs. Janice Hileman, denied reports that the couple had not been getting along well lately. They said they had entertained the couple during the week-end and found them light-hearted and making plans for celebrating together.

Mrs. Melvin, Mrs. Powers' mother, said she might have been run down from the constant stream of parties the couple had been giving in celebration of the pilot's return. She said Mrs. Powers had suffered from numerous ailments.

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